

Monday, April 11th, 2022 - Leverett Conservation Commission meeting FINAL minutes

In Attendance:

Isaiah Robison, Chair

David Powicki, Voting member

Gail Berrigan, Voting member

Jono Neiger, Voting member

Joan Deely, Voting member

Adam Kohl, Conservation Agent

Seth Heminway, citizen, prospective member

Zack Katz, homeowner and applicant for 253 Shutesbury Rd

Meeting started: Isaiah started the meeting at 7:06pm.

Seth Heminway, looking to become a member of the commission, introduced himself. Seth has had a career working with environmental concerns, including the Clean Water Act. He is particularly interested in trail work and excited about the open space in town. Previously Seth led a neighborhood tree program where he coordinated with volunteers on tree planting and tree selection. He has taken a Tree Steward course (a master naturalist program on trees), and is eager to get involved and contribute to the community.

Isaiah notes that Seth is qualified for the position. David notes that the Con Com can recommend a new member but the select board appoints new members.

1) NOI for 253 Shutesbury Rd. Involving permission to remove 18 trees from the vicinity of Roaring Brook. Applicant Zach Katz.

Zack Katz gives an overview of the project, which includes taking down trees along Roaring Brook that are in time likely to fall on the applicant's house. Replanting plans have been submitted. Tree trunks will be saved leaving the first 3' in the ground and stumps will not be ground. Native plant species will be planted for bank stabilization where needed. Erosion will be minimized by staggering planting temporally. The 18 trees are to be cut by Linden Tree Care with a crane that will only be used from the driveway. The Commission discussed natural revegetation vs. planting, and a timeline for a return site visit.

Isaiah made a motion to approve the work with the condition that there is a site visit in the Fall of 2022 to overview the site conditions and planting plan. Joan seconds. All in favor.

2) Approval of minutes from past meetings.

Feb 2nd minutes:

Change 2002 - to 2022

Isaiah makes a motion to approve with edits, Gail seconds, all in favor

Feb 24th minutes:

Isaiah makes a motion to approve, David seconds, all in favor (except Jono and Gail abstain).

March 7th minutes approved with the following edits:

Change address of Gregory Murphy to 83 N. Leverett Rd

Isaiah makes a motion to approve with edits, Gail seconds, all in favor.

3) NOI for 102 Shutesbury Rd. For Peter and Jenny Daniell

Isaiah recused himself as he will be working at the site. No NOI was received for this yet, so this item was not otherwise discussed.

The commission suggests inviting Julia Firl, who is also interested in joining the commission, to the next meeting. Joan makes a motion to recommend Seth Heminway as a new conservation commission member to the selectboard, Gail seconds. All in favor.

4) Appoint Chair to the Con Com

David says he will be the chair for 6 months, on the condition that the commission implements a 6 month rotating chair position.

5) Mail and unforeseen business.

Jono makes a motion to approve the MOU and associated 2022 schedule of activities for Brian Pearson, founder of Adventure East, and notify the selectboard of approval. Joan seconds. All in favor.

Next meeting is set for May 2nd, Monday at 7pm.

Motion to close the meeting:

Isaiah moves to close the meeting, Joan seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:31pm